UNIT 7 Language & Literature

Reading 1	Steve Jobs's Commencement Address at Stanford University [excerpted and adapted]

Steve Jobs's Commencement Address at Stanford University

I'm honored to be with you today for your commencement. This is the closest I've ever gotten to a college graduation.

(A) My biological mother found out later that my mother had never graduated from college and that my father had never graduated from high school. She refused ① to sign the final adoption papers. She only relented when my parents promised that I would go to college.

(B) She felt strongly that I should be adopted by college graduates, so everything was all set for me to be adopted at birth by a lawyer and his wife, except ② that they decided they really wanted a girl at the last minute. Instead, my parents got a call asking, "We've got an ③ unexpected baby boy. Do you want him?" They said, "Of course."

(C) I dropped out of Reed College after six months, but then stayed around as a drop-in for ④ another eighteen months before I really quit. So why did I drop out? It started before I was born. My biological mother was a young graduate student, and she decided to ⑤ put up me for adoption.

1. What is the correct order of the paragraphs?

① (C)-(B)-(A)
② (A)-(C)-(B)
③ (B)-(C)-(A)
④ (C)-(A)-(B)
⑤ (B)-(A)-(C)

2. Which is grammatically incorrect?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Seventeen years later, I did go to college, but I ① naively chose a college that was almost as expensive as Stanford, and all of my working-class parents' savings were being spent on my tuition. After six months, I couldn't see the value in it, so I decided to drop out and ② trust that it would all work out OK. It was pretty scary at the time, but looking back, it was one of the best decisions I ever made. The minute I dropped out, I could stop taking ③ uninteresting classes and begin dropping in on the ones that looked far more interesting.

Much of what I stumbled into turned out to be ④ worthless. For example, since I didn't have to take the normal classes, I decided to take a calligraphy class one semester. I learned about what makes typography great. It was beautiful, historical, artistic, and subtle in a way that science can't capture, and I found it ⑤ fascinating.

3. What is true, according to the passage?

① My parents couldn't afford the tuition for the college I attended.
② I quit college after 6 months due to economic reasons.
③ I was confident when I decided to drop out of college.
④ I applied for a calligraphy class as a regular class.
⑤ Many valuable things I learned were not what I planned ahead of time.

4. Which of the underlined words is NOT suitable to the context?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

5. What is most likely the main idea of the paragraph?

① The need to explore what you really want
② The uselessness of university education
③ The importance of spending a faithful college life
④ The way you make college life smooth
⑤ The importance of having a hobby

Ten years later, when we were designing the first Macintosh computer, it all came back to me, and we designed it into the Mac. It was the first computer with beautiful typography. If I had never dropped in on that single course, the Mac would have never had multiple typefaces or proportionally spaced fonts, and since Windows copied the Mac, it's likely that no personal computer would have them.

You can't connect the dots looking forward**.** You can only connect them looking backwards, so you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something—your gut, destiny, whatever. Follow your _____, even when they lead you off the well-worn pathways, and that will make all the difference.

6. What is the closest meaning of the underlined part?

You can't connect the dots looking forward.

① The present moment cannot be predicted by connecting it with the future.
② Just as the way to connect dots is set, so is life.
③ We must reflect on the past and move forward.
④ A life that craves for the future is undesirable.
⑤ You need to be careful in your life as if you were connecting dots.

7. Choose the word that best fits in the blank.

① intelligence
② instincts
③ beliefs
④ dreams
⑤ effort

8. What is most likely the title of the paragraph?

① Prepare for the Future!
② Importance of Typography
③ The Importance of a Positive Attitude
④ The Secret of Macintosh Computer Birth
⑤ Believe in Yourself and the Dots Will Connect

Title: _____

Students drop out of college for many different reasons. A few brilliant businessmen such as Steve Jobs become so successful at a young age that they do not need to graduate. And exceptional athletes, such as NBA star Kobe Bryant, can leave school early and play professional sports.

(A) Others leave because they have trouble paying tuition. As Gates once pointed out on his blog, these dropouts end up feeling badly about themselves. “Their entire sense of what they can achieve in life is damaged,” he wrote. In fact, statistics show that college graduates have more rewarding jobs and higher incomes. They even appear to be healthier than those who did not finish college. Thus, universities should do more to keep struggling and low-income students in school.

(B) But while some dropouts are successful, most people still need a diploma to get a decent-paying job. Although he never finished college himself, Bill Gates believes that getting a degree is generally the right choice. He also argues that universities must work harder to ensure that students graduate with valuable career skills. Most dropouts do not leave school to follow a dream. Many give up because they cannot handle the academic challenges and because they do not receive enough guidance from the university.

(C) It is not only the students themselves who benefit from graduating, however. We are all better off when more people graduate because a healthy economy depends on it. Educated workers will only be more in demand in the future. Salaries will continue to rise for these workers, while salaries will fall for those without college degrees. As Gates warns, this will increase poverty and inequality.

9. What is the correct order of the paragraphs?

① (B)-(A)-(C)
② (A)-(C)-(B)
③ (C)-(A)-(B)
④ (C)-(B)-(A)
⑤ (B)-(C)-(A)

10. What is most likely the title of the paragraph?

① Reasons Why Students Drop out of College
② Great People Who Achieved Great Success without a College Diploma
③ The Impact of the Increasing Number of College Dropouts on Society
④ The Need for Universities' Efforts to Stop College Dropouts
⑤ Is College Degree Worth It?

Reading 2	“The Premature Burial” by Edgar Allan Poe [excerpted and adapted]

“The Premature Burial” by Edgar Allan Poe

To be buried while still (A) [alive / live] is certainly the worst fate that a human being can imagine. Yet it has happened. The boundary between life and death is _____. Over the years, there have been many strange stories of the premature burials of living people. In each case, the person appeared to be dead, but it was discovered, often tragically too late, that the person was in fact still alive.

One remarkable story recently (B) [was occurred / occurred] in the city of Baltimore. The wife of a (C) [respecting / respected] lawyer contracted a sudden, mysterious disease. No doctor could offer a diagnosis, and after intense suffering, she died. She looked like any other corpse and had no pulse, so she was pronounced dead.

The funeral was held quickly to prevent the body from decaying. After the funeral, the woman’s coffin was placed in her family tomb, where it ① lay undisturbed for three years. Then there was ② another death in the family. When the iron doors of the tomb were opened, the woman’s skeleton fell into her ③ shocked husband’s arms!
After close inspection, her family came to the ④ horrifying conclusion that she had not really been dead at the time of burial. They believed that she had woken up shortly after her burial and had tried to escape, ⑤ that caused her coffin to fall and break open. They found a large piece of the coffin’s wood, and it seemed that she had used this to try to break down the iron door. However, she had failed and had died, trapped inside.

11. Which of the following (A), (B), and (C) pairs of brackets is grammatical?

	(A)	(B)	(C)
①	alive	occurred	respected
②	live	was occurred	respected
③	alive	was occurred	respecting
④	live	occurred	respecting
⑤	alive	was occurred	respected

12. What is most likely the main idea of the paragraph?
① It is unethical to bury a living person.
② Life is sometimes full of mysterious tragedies.
③ Declaring a person dead needs absolute care.
④ The boundary between life and death is not clear.
⑤ Tragedy of burying people alive sometimes happened.

13. Choose the words that best fit in the blank.
① obvious and distinct
② mysterious and interesting
③ uncertain but interesting
④ shadowy and vague
⑤ unrealistic and painful

14. Which of the following is grammatically incorrect?
① ② ③ ④ ⑤

15. What atmosphere is the most suitable to describe the passage?
① frustrating and dull
② scary and instructive
③ desperate and thrilling
④ miserable and critical
⑤ tragic and dreadful

16. What is most likely the title of the paragraph?
① Funeral That Has Become a Nightmare
② A Victim of a Terrible Marriage
③ A Woman Who Walked out of the Tomb
④ A Bride Who Has Become a Ghost
⑤ The Cruel Customs of the Past

Another strange example of the burial of a living person happened in France in 1810. In this case, the victim was a beautiful young girl named Victorine, who came from a very rich family. Among her many suitors ① was Julien Bossuet, a poor but talented journalist whom Victorine liked. However, ② due to his poverty, she chose to marry a wealthy banker instead. After marriage, her new husband treated her terribly, and she lived a miserable life with him. Just a few years after their wedding, Victorine died and was buried in a simple grave in the village ③ where she was born.

Julien was very sad when he heard about her death and went to visit her grave. He arrived at the grave at midnight, where he dug the coffin from the earth and embraced his old love. As he did so, he saw her ④ open her eyes and was overjoyed to discover she was not dead at all. Victorine had been so ill and unhappy ⑤ which she could not move, but the kind touch of her lover awakened her. Julien carried her to his home, where he secretly nursed her back to health. So that she would not have to return to her husband, the young couple fled the country together.

17. What is NOT true, according to the passage?

① There was a girl who had to break up with her loved one for financial reasons.
② The girl's short marriage was not smooth.
③ The girl died a few years after living a miserable life after getting married.
④ Julian dug her grave to save the life of his old love.
⑤ The lovers who met again left the escape of love.

18. Which is grammatically incorrect?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Dead or alive?

Edgar Allan Poe's short story "The Premature Burial" centers on a man's intense fear of being buried ① alive. During the 1800s, Poe wrote four stories that dealt with this theme, ② which was a common fear for people—especially in rural areas. Occasionally, people who were not really dead were put into coffins and buried because some doctors, particularly in the countryside, were not very good at identifying death. This was because, in the 1800s, medical technology was very primitive. Sometimes all doctors had to go by were their own eyes. They had no special tools or equipment. If someone looked ③ dead, then they must be dead.

Many doctors did not know about a medical condition called catalepsy, ④ which people fall into a deep, deep sleep with slow breathing and a quiet heartbeat. This condition can sometimes last for days, and during this time, the person appears dead. In Poe's time, if the doctor was not skillful, the person might quickly be put into a coffin and buried.

But if a person were buried alive, how would others know? Occasionally, people walking through a cemetery would hear screams coming up from someone ⑤ buried below. Some people thought that these were the sounds of ghosts or monsters, but other people knew that these were the screams of living people and quickly ran to dig up the grave and rescue the person. Sometimes graves had to be dug up and moved. At those times, people would open the coffin and check whether there were scratch marks on the inside of the lid—a clear sign that the person was alive when he was buried, woke up, and tried to get out!

19. Which of the following is grammatically incorrect?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

20. What is NOT true, according to the passage?

① Poe wrote four stories about the horror people feel about being buried alive.
② The fear of being buried alive is a kind of unusual fear shared by rural people.
③ In Poe's day, doctors sometimes mistook the living for the dead because of poor medical skills.
④ When a living person in the coffin screamed, he or she was often misunderstood as a ghost or monster.
⑤ People who woke up from their graves screamed and scratched their coffins in an effort to escape.

Answer Key

1. ①

2. ⑤

3. ⑤ <

4. ④

5. ①

6. ①

7. ②

8. ⑤

9. ①

10. ⑤

11. ①

12. ⑤

13. ④

14. ⑤

15. ⑤

16. ①

17. ④

18. ⑤

19. ④

20. ②